

62. The drive apparatus for a hybrid vehicle according to claim 59, wherein said predetermined gap is within a range between 0.8 and 3.5 mm.--

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REMARKS

A petition for a one month extension of time has today been filed as a separate paper and a copy is attached hereto.

Also filed today as a separate paper is a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes. As can be seen from the symmetrically identical view of the rotor in the bottom portion of Figs. 1 and 2, the one instance of "45b" should be changed to read "45c".

A "Substitute Specification and Abstract" is submitted herewith to address the examiner's objection as set forth in paragraph 3 of the office action and to otherwise place the case in better English form. The "Substitute Specification and Abstract" contains no new matter. In order that the examiner can satisfy himself in this regard, also submitted herewith is a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract, from which the "Substitute Specification and Abstract" was typed.

As noted above, the examiner's objection to the specification has been addressed by amendment of the language which originally appeared at page 13, line 27 (see page 11, lines 7 and 8 of the Substitute Specification) and page 22, line 8 of the original specification (see page

18, line 15 of the Substitute Specification).

Regarding the rejection of original claim 37 for indefiniteness, as set forth in paragraph 4 of the office action, the examiner's attention is directed to the wording of new claims 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65 which roughly correspond to original claim 37. Note that these new claims use the language "fluid transmitting apparatus" for sake of consistency with the language of the claims upon which they depend.

Regarding the rejection for anticipation by Evans et al, applicants rely upon priority of the October 1, 1999 filing date of Japanese Application No. H11-282177, the priority of which is claimed here under 35 USC 119. In support of their right to rely upon priority of Japanese Application No. H11-282177, a verified English language translation thereof is submitted herewith. It is believed that the disclosure of Japanese Application No. H11-282177 provides description corresponding to claims 39-45.

To the extent that the rejection over Evans et al might be deemed applicable to claims 46-50, it is respectfully traversed. Claims 46-50 require that the rotor be fixed to and supported by only the input member of the fluid transmitting apparatus. See the embodiment of Fig. 5 and the explanation thereof at page 24, lines 2-27. In contradistinction, in Evans et al the rotor is supported by both the engine crankshaft and the torque converter. There is no suggestion that the sole support could be the torque converter.

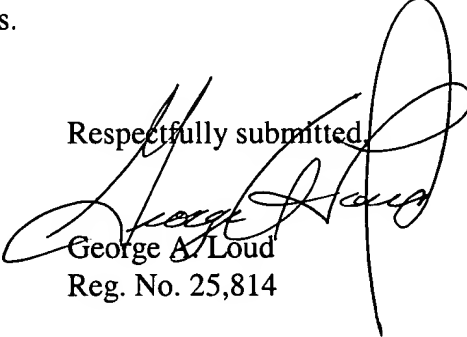
Insofar as the rejection over Evans et al might be deemed applicable to claims 51-54 it is traversed because, again, Evans et al teach support of the rotor by both the engine crankshaft and the torque converter and suggest no other form of support. Claims 51-54 require that the rotor be fixed to and supported by only an output shaft of the engine. See Fig. 6 and the explanation thereof at page 25, lines 1-7, read in light of the explanation at page 24, lines 2-16.

The rejection over Evans et al, insofar as it might be deemed applicable to claims 55-58 is traversed for the same reason presented in the previous traversals. These claims 55-58 require that the rotor be supported by the case and the input member of the fluid transmitting apparatus. See the embodiment of Fig. 7 and the description thereof at page 25, lines 8-17, read in light of the explanation at page 24, lines 2-16.

Likewise, the rejection over Evans et al, insofar as it might be deemed applicable to claims 59-62 is traversed for the reason that Evans et al suggest no support by a combination of the motor case (housing) and the output shaft of the engine, as recited. See Fig. 8 and the description thereof at page 25, lines 18-26, again read in light of the teaching at page 24, lines 2-16.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the objections and rejections of record in light of the present amendments and foregoing remarks, with a view toward allowance of the newly presented claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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